THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (d) The wastes containing lead and zinc in the form of ash and residue are imported as raw material for secondary processing industries. The Authority for issuing licence for import of wastes is the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). All shipments are cleared, based on the licence. Till recently, i.e. 29th April, 1995, imports of all wastes were under the Open General Licence (OGL). In April 1995 the EXIM Policy was amended and Hazardous Wastes were placed in the restricted list, requiring a licence for imports.

The information on the actual imports based on the consignments cleared by the customs is compiled by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence (DGCIS), Calcutta. The quantity of imports of wastes containing lead and zinc during 1994-95 and 1995-96 (upto January 1996) as reported by DGCIS, is given below:

S.No.	Name	year	Quantity (Kgs)
1.	Lead Slag	1994-95	2497804
		1995-96	1889312
2.	Lead Residue	1994-95	7575025
		1995-96	7235665
3.	Hard Zinc Spelter	1994-95	2034831
		1995-96	1156243
4.	Other Ash & Residue containing mainly zinc	1994-95	64776790
		1995-96	47868317
5.	Ash & Residue containing mainly Copper	1994-95	44065261
		1995-96	—
6.	Lead Waste & Scrap	1994-95	48873529
		1995-96	33429022
7.	Zinc Waste & Scrap	1994-95	4048063
		1995-96	6144/39

Freight Operations Information System Project

4962. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present position in regard to the development of Freight Operations Information System Project;

(b) whether the work on the project is progressing as per schedule;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the project is facing funds crunch; and

(e) if so, the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken for early completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The software of the modules developed so far has been under trial since August, 1994. A variety of software related problems and bugs were pointed out by Northern Railway and the Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) has been endeavouring to rectify them. In view of these problems and the time taken in rectifying them, the Ministry of Railways had entrusted a review of the software by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi. The IIT, Delhi has submitted its report, recommending certain corrective measures, which is under examination and necessary decisions will be taken shortly.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Samples of Medicines

4963. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the samples of medicines manufactured by drug companies are not being given to the doctors and the remaining samples are being sold in the open market;

(b) if so, whether the country is losing crore of rupees as revenue due to this practice of drug companies; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent such practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) To the extent information is available, no such report has been received by the Government.

(b) and (c) Clinical samples cleared by a manufacturer of Patent or proprietory medicaments falling under heading No. 30.03 of the Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 (5 of 1986), were exempt from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon vide notification 48/77-CE dated 1.4.1977, as amended by 78/86-CE dated 10.2.86 (w.e.f. 28.2.86), 91/86CE, dated 10.2.86 (w.e.f. 28.2.86), 104/86-CE, dated 27.2.86 w.e.f. 28.2.86), 51/88-CE dated 1.3.88. This Excise Tariff Notification (No. 48/77-CE dated 1.4.1977) was Rescinded vide Notification No. 64/94-CE, dated 1.3.94. Hence there is no revenue loss to the Government.

Environmental Projects

4964. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: